

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION

CERTIFICATE (11181)

Birth - Grade 2

The Early Childhood Special Education Certificate is valid for assignment as an Early Childhood Special Education teacher for Birth - Grade 2 in Rhode Island public schools.

Certification Requirements for full Rhode Island Certification¹

To be issued a certificate in Early Childhood Special Education an applicant must satisfy all of the following:

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Completion of an approved program or Credential Review Consortium Institution (CRCI) credential review plan for the preparation of Early Childhood Special Education Teachers
- Completion of a minimum of 12 weeks of Student Teaching in this area and a minimum of 60 hours Field Experience prior to Student Teaching
- Demonstration of meeting the Professional Competencies of the Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards (RIPTS)
- Demonstration of meeting the Content Competencies as prescribed by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- Other requirements:
 - Hold Early Childhood Education Certificate and met all Rhode Island assessment requirements for this certificate area

Assessment Requirements

Go to www.ets.org for test registration, dates and locations

All applicants must meet the following Rhode Island assessment requirement(s):

- Applicants must achieve a passing score of 159 on the Praxis II Special Education: Preschool/Early Childhood (5691)
- Applicants prepared in a program where the language of instruction was not English must achieve a passing score of 64 on the Versant Pro Speaking and Writing English assessments.

Current Routes to Certification

Certification may be attained through the following routes:

- **RI Approved Program** - Completion of RI approved program. For more information review the [Approved Programs website](#).
- **Reciprocity** - Reciprocity is recognition of preparation or certification in another state as comparable to Rhode Island. Applicants seeking certification through reciprocity must demonstrate that they meet all Rhode Island certification assessment requirements, hold the additional required certificate and meet all experience requirements when applicable. Applicants can attain certification by completing a state approved program for Educator Certification in a state other than Rhode Island within the last 5 years OR by demonstrating that they hold a currently valid full certificate in another state.
- **CRCI** - Completion of CRCI Credential Review plan. For more information review the [Credential Review Pathways website](#).

¹ Full Certification in Rhode Island means a multi-year certificate that demonstrates the educator has met all Rhode Island requirements for certification in the three-tier certification system (Initial, Professional, or Advanced certification). Full Certification does not include Preliminary Certifications which require educators to meet additional requirements to attain full certifications. Full certifications in Rhode Island are comparable to National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) stage three or higher certificates and are recognized by other states for certificate reciprocity.